

his explanation that if the newer three dimensional (3D) seismic data were available from the Arctic Oil Reserve, their high May estimates of producible oil could soar even higher.

Casadevall explained that their new estimates, while supported by sound science and peer review, were still based on 2D seismic tests done more than a decade ago.

Kenneth A. Boyd, director, division of Oil and Gas of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, likened the advance of the new testing to the difference between an x-ray and a CAT-scan.

He said the available information from 2D seismic as opposed to 3D seismic is that the former produces a line of data while the latter produces a cube of data. The cube can be turned and examined from all sides and the geologic information proves invaluable for exploration.

This data has revolutionized exploration and development of the North Slope of Alaska. Modern 3-D data provides enhanced and incredibly accurate imaging of potential subsurface reservoirs.

This in turn reduces exploration and development risk, reduces the number of drilled wells, and in turn reduces both overall costs and environmental impacts.

Of course the Administration is under little pressure to allow testing or exploration of the Coastal Plain with gas prices at a 30-year low. However, the Department of Energy's Information Administration predicts, in ten years, America will be at least 64 percent dependent on foreign oil. It would take that same ten-year period to develop any oil production in AOR.

Therefore, it seems prudent to plan ahead to protect our future energy security.

I intend to introduce legislation that would allow 3D seismic testing on the Coastal Plain. This testing leaves no footprint. In fact, just last year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed such testing to be done in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, declaring such testing would have "no significant impact."

It would have even less impact on the frozen tundra in ANWR. It is also a possibility that the oil industry would be willing to share in the cost of such testing. Let's at least find out what kind of resource we are talking about.

It the Nation were to be crunched in an energy crisis—like the Gulf War—that would require the speedup of development; that development could impact the environment negatively because it would not have the benefit of thoughtful planning.

I believe it is as criminal as stealing gold to refuse to acknowledge the potential for producible oil in the Coastal Plain of the AOR. If we don't know what the resource is, how can we protect it or make an informed decision about its use?

And how can those in this Administration or the environmental commu-

nity argue it is a bad idea to seek a greater understanding of our public lands?

If we are just guessing that the Sourdough drillers may have tapped an underground AOR vein then we deserve to lose the resource. It is time to get rid of the guesswork and 3D testing will help to do that.●

TRIBUTE TO ALAN J. GIBBS

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who dedicated his life to public service, and who died leaving that legacy as a model for all of us.

Alan Gibbs began his career in Baltimore, Maryland. After serving several years on the National Labor Relations Board he joined the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission right here in Washington, D.C. His work at the EEOC was recognized by his peers when he received the Commission's meritorious service award. Wherever Alan served there was always public acknowledgment of his contributions. New York City, Seattle and my home state of New Jersey were fortunate beneficiaries of Alan's energy, tenacity and commitment to bettering the lives of others.

In 1977, Alan was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Army by President Carter. He was awarded the Distinguished Civilian Service Award—an honor not many are given but few deserve as much.

In New Jersey, Alan served as the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services. During his tenure, Alan made sure that individuals were not lost in the shuffle or became faceless statistics. He was always compassionate and caring. The principle that guided his tenure, and is his most enduring legacy, was to give each individual the resources to live a life with dignity and hope. The job was not easy, but Alan got it done.

Alan also gave of his time to teaching. He recognized the importance of education and helped equip students for their careers.

Mr. President, I extend my deep condolences to Alan's wife Barbara, and their children Jordan, Philip and Cynthia. The outpouring of tributes to Alan are in reality a celebration of his life. I hope they bring comfort and a measure of joy in remembrance to his family.●

MEDICARE HOME HEALTH BENEFICIARY PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to add my name as a cosponsor to S. 2354, the "Medicare Home Health Beneficiary Act of 1998".

This bill amends title XVIII of the Social Security Act to impose a moratorium on the implementation of the Interim Payment System (IPS) for home health agencies. This IPS was set up by Congress at the recommendation

of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) as a transition to a Prospective Payment System. However, the IPS, along with surety bond requirements and other regulatory implementations of the Balanced Budget Act, has had a negative influence on the home health care providers and their patients, forcing many providers out of business.

The IPS has hurt home health care in Tennessee. For example, in Tennessee, the amount of funding each agency receives per patient per year was based on each agency's costs for Fiscal Year 1994. This method of calculation has the potential to penalize agencies who acted responsibly to hold down costs. One Tennessee provider, who had very low 1994 costs due to aggressive cost control, is concerned that the IPS may force them out of business. We cannot afford to sacrifice quality in home health care, and we must not punish agencies that have always tried to provide quality care at reasonable costs.

In addition, some home health providers who have a good reputation in their communities, built on years of service, did not submit a full cost report for Fiscal Year 1994 due to accounting methods. Regrettably, these agencies are now classified by HCFA as "new agencies." If the agency is classified as a new agency, then their historic costs are disregarded in their reimbursement, and they will receive a payment based on a national average. Well, Mr. President, we know that the cost of care in Tennessee may be very different from the cost of care in another region. In fact, in Tennessee, home health costs tend to be higher than the national average. This will make it extremely difficult for these agencies to meet the IPS budget constraint.

Home health care provides a critical service to our nation's Medicare beneficiaries. The IPS was created to address some of the problems with cost control in the home health industry. However, it appears that this interim plan manages to create more problems than it solves. In fact, I believe it can do more harm than good. We need to impose a moratorium on IPS and encourage implementation of a system of fair reimbursement payment rates that ensures all home health providers are cost-effective without sacrificing quality of care for patients. We must find a way to terminate those agencies that take advantage of seniors and the Medicare system, while ensuring continuity of high quality home health care for our nation's most vulnerable populations.●

CURT FLOOD ACT

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, last night the Senate passed, on a voice vote, S. 53, a measure dealing with antitrust matters and Major League Baseball. Let the record show that if this bill had come before the Senate in a recorded vote, I would have recused myself on this vote.●